

February 14, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET IN BURNS

The Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) will be meeting at the Burns District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, on Monday and Tuesday, March 3-4, 2003, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. as scheduled. The public is welcome to attend all portions of the meeting, and may contribute during public comment sessions scheduled at 11:00 a.m. each day. Unless otherwise approved by the SMAC Chair, the public comment periods will last no longer than 30 minutes, and each speaker will address the SMAC for a maximum of 5 minutes.

On Monday morning, the SMAC will begin with chairman, designated federal official, and Andrews/Steens Resource Management Plan (RMP) updates. An information sharing session regarding the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) Wilderness Study Area (WSA) proposal will follow the updates, with discussion on the Projects for Implementation of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act (Act) of 2000 Environmental Assessment (EA) starting after lunch. Monday's meeting will conclude with discussion of the winter recreation program, subsequent issues identification, and possible recommendation of alternatives.

The SMAC will devote Tuesday entirely to transportation. Issues to be discussed include road maintenance categories one and two and transportation management actions for the Andrews/Steens

RMP. The March meeting will adjourn after planning the April agenda and reviewing committee recommendations.

If you have information to be distributed to SMAC members, please send it to Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, no later than 10 days prior to the start of the meeting.

Current SMAC members and their representative category of constituents are listed below:

- Richard Benner - No Financial Interest
- Stacy Davies - Grazing Permittee
- Alice Elshoff - Environmental Representative-Local
- Michael Golden - Dispersed Recreation
- E. Ron Harding - Wild Horse Management
- Tom Harris, Chair - Mechanized or Consumptive Recreation
- Wanda Johnson - Burns Paiute Tribe
- Jason Miner - Fish and Recreational Fishing
- Jerry Sutherland, Vice Chair - Environmental Representative-State
- Hoyt Wilson - Grazing Permittee
- Cynthia Witzel - Recreation Permit Holder
- Harland Yriarte - Private Landowner
- Steve Purchase - State Government Liaison (nonvoting member)

The Designated Federal Official is Thomas Dyer, Burns District Manager.

For further information on the SMAC or the upcoming meeting, contact Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office at 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon, or call (541) 573-4400, weekdays, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. You may also check the Steens Web site at <http://www.or.blm.gov/Steens> for more information.